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REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

Draft programme of action for the prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others

Report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/36

Addendum

The present document contains information submitted by the Governments of Egypt and the Philippines.

EGYPT

[Original: Arabic]
[14 December 1992]

The Egyptian Constitution recognizes a number of rights and freedoms derived from the spirit, heritage and values of Egyptian society. The most notable of these rights and freedoms are:

1. All citizens are equal in regard to their public rights and duties, without discrimination.

2. The family is the cornerstone of society and it and its individual members must be cared for.

3. Mothers and children must be protected; the welfare of youth and the younger generation must be catered for and appropriate conditions must be created for the development of their talents.

Egyptian law prohibits incitement to, or facilitation of, prostitution, as well as indecent assault, particularly on children, the abduction and rape of females, the abduction, concealment or substitution of children or their exposure to danger, etc. All these offences carry heavy penalties including, in some cases, the death penalty.

Slavery, exploitation and forced labour are prohibited, since they are regarded as among the most extreme forms of violation of human rights and freedoms.

The principle of women's equality with men is recognized with a view to preventing their exploitation and any detraction from their human dignity.

All State institutions and agencies show concern for children and the younger generation with a view to protecting their health and catering for their social and cultural welfare.

Egyptian society firmly upholds a number of concepts and beliefs that are opposed to the phenomenon of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others. Its attitude towards that phenomenon has been shaped by its deep-rooted principles and values derived from Egypt's time-honoured civilization.

The following measures are proposed in order to increase the effectiveness of the draft programme of action formulated by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for the prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others:

1. In addition to international conferences, periodic regional conferences should be held in the various continents in order to examine this phenomenon in every region and formulate plans to combat and eliminate it.

2. Study and information centres should be established by international and regional bodies.

3. The scope of the information exchanged should be broadened in order to curb the phenomenon of sex tourism and monitoring operations should be conducted with a view to preventing the international traffic in persons (females and children alike), particularly by the States parties to the international conventions on the abolition of slavery and the prevention of prostitution.

4. Methods and systems should be developed to censor publications, photographs and films etc, which contain pornographic material or in any way promote that phenomenon.

PHILIPPINES

[Original: English]
[8 December 1992]

The Government of the Philippines considers the draft programme to be adequate, addressing the concerns and issues relating to prostitution.

Indeed, trafficking and the exploitation of persons, specifically children, have been rampant these past few years. In the Philippine Plan of Action for Children (PPAC), different categories of children who are in especially difficult circumstances are targeted to benefit from governmental and non-governmental programmes and services.

Moreover, Republic Act No. 7610, entitled "An act providing for stronger deterrence and special protection against child abuse, exploitation and discrimination, providing penalties for its violation, and for other purposes" was passed on 7 February 1992, including child trafficking as well as other forms of prostitution as offences. It is also stated in Presidential Decree No. 603 that parents who sell their children are criminally liable.

Specific steps taken by member agencies of the Council for the Welfare of Children to prevent traffic in persons include the following:

(a) Advocacy, information and educational campaigns focusing on the ill-effects of such acts on the child, using continuing dialogues, representation and coordination with hospitals, local civil registrars, police and relevant non-governmental organizations;

(b) The requirement that minors travelling abroad get clearance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development prior to the issuance of a passport by the Department of Foreign Affairs; and

(c) Assignment of social workers at international airports to assist immigration officers in reviewing the travel documents of minors going outside the country.